

NEWS RELEASE
August 10, 2001
Contact: Jim Springer
(801) 538-5324

**PROGRAM WILL REPLACE FENCING
DESTROYED BY WILDLAND FIRE**

Through special funding from Congress, the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands is offering a program designed to help private landowners replace fences and other infrastructure lost due to wildfires during calendar year 2000. According to Ecosystem Management Coordinator Dave Schen, "These funds are part of an appropriations package associated with the National Fire Plan and made available to the State by the U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry."

The highest priority for assistance is replacing fence losses that affect ranching operations. Such fencing could include holding pens, boundary fences and interior fences. The program will reimburse private landowners for the full replacement value of fencing lost to a limit of \$10,000 per landowner. Funding is limited and the Division must validate the loss as being associated with a wildfire that occurred during calendar year 2000.

"Once fencing needs are covered, there may be an opportunity, based upon available funding, to cover other losses on Public and Tribal lands and then, finally, other infrastructure on private lands where a public benefit can be demonstrated," added Schen. Examples of other types of infrastructures that may provide public benefits include culverts, roads, trails, bridges, waterlines and irrigation structures.

The Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands utilized data collected by U.S. Forest Service District Offices and the division's Area Offices to identify landowners who might qualify for this program. Eligible landowners may contact their local Forestry, Fire & State Lands office in Logan, Vernal, Salt Lake, Richfield, Moab and Cedar City to learn more about the program. The deadline for submitting applications is September 14, 2001.

###